

REMARKS

Claim Status

In the above amendment, claims 22, 25, 28 and 29 are amended, and claims 1-21 and 24 are cancelled. No new matter is added by the amendment. This amendment is made without prejudice to continue prosecution of the subject matter removed by cancellation in a continuation application. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 22, 23 and 25-29 are pending.

At paragraph 9 of the Office Action mailed May 31, 2006, the Examiner states that "[c]laim 24 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Accordingly, claim 22 is amended above to incorporate the features of claim 24. Claims 25, 28 and 29 are amended to change their dependency to claim 22. Therefore, all claims remaining after entry of the above amendment are directed to subject matter indicated as being allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 11-13 and 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,175,616 to Milgram et al. Also, claims 1, 14, 15 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,330,523 to Kacyra et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the following reasons.

Claims 1-6, 11-15 and 19-21 are cancelled by the above amendment. Claim 22 is amended above to incorporate the subject matter of claim 24, which the Examiner indicated is allowable. Therefore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-10 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious. Specifically, claims 7 and 8 are rejected over Milgram in view of ordinary skill in the art, claims 9 and 10 are rejected over Milgram in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,839,081 to Iijima et al., and claims 16-18 are rejected over Milgram in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,446,465 to Diefes et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the following reason.

Claims 7-10 and 16-18 are cancelled by the above amendment. Therefore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are moot and should be withdrawn.

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This paper is accompanied by a petition and fee for a two-month extension of time, bringing the deadline for response to the outstanding Office Action to October 31, 2006. If any other fee is required for any reason in connection with this application, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Howrey Deposit Account No. 08-3038/11783.0017.PCUS00.

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